Trump Promises ‘Golden Age’ for US Farmers at White House Event

March 27, 2026 **by Dan McCue**

President Donald Trump addresses the largest gathering of American farmers and ranchers ever held at the White House, on Friday, March 27, 2026. (Photo by Dan McCue)

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced a series of moves on Friday, including a long-awaited decision on biofuels, aimed at providing relief to struggling farmers and ranchers, and promised to usher in a “golden age” for American agriculture.

The president unveiled the new policies at a South Lawn event attended by nearly 1,000 members of the farming and ranching community, “the single largest gathering of American farmers at the White House in history,” in the words of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins.

"You want that fair shot and a level playing field, and I'm giving that to you, and I think I'm actually giving you much better than a level playing field," Trump said from a White House balcony overlooking the crowd and four large tractors displayed before them.

The speech was vintage, high-spirited, campaign-mode Trump, with extended asides about the construction of the new White House ballroom a stone's throw from Friday's events, the success of the American military in Iran, and a gold-painted tractor parked to the right of his podium.

"I like tractors, owning quite a few myself at my various properties, but you got me with that one," he said, later jokingly asking if it was a gift.

"Could you imagine what they would do to me if I accepted such a gift?" he said.

He also spent considerable time painting Democrats as the enemy of rural America and Republicans as its allies.

"They," he said of congressional Democrats, "vote against anything that's good for agriculture.

"They're crazy," he said, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

Trump accused the Biden administration of abandoning farmers and ranchers, and undercutting their ability to make a living and stay on their land due to harsh regulatory restrictions and a failure to make advantageous trade deals.

In contrast, Trump said, his administration recently used tariff money to give farmers $12 billion in relief.

"I'm also asking Congress to quickly pass the new farm bill," he said. "And today, I'm promising to request additional farm relief for our great patriots in the next funding bill."

The day's biggest applause, however, came when the president announced that his administration is increasing the volumes of biofuels like ethanol that are required to be blended into other fuels for 2026 and 2027.

The so-called Renewable Fuel Standard "Set 2" final rule will set the blend volumes at "the highest levels in program history," the president said.

Among the changes the Environmental Protection Agency is incorporating into the Renewable Fuel Standard program is a return, the agency said, to a framework that more closely aligns to the plain language of the Clean Air Act.

"Despite 'electricity' never once being mentioned in the RFS CAA language, the Obama and Biden administrations set up the framework to turn the RFS program into a subsidy for electric vehicle charging stations as part of their efforts to force the electrification of the transportation sector," the EPA said in a press release published as the president spoke.

"This manipulation of the CAA was not about helping farmers but rather furthering their out-of-touch political agenda of pushing EVs on every American. The Trump EPA has removed 'renewable electricity' from the RFS program," the agency said.

To meet new volume levels, the EPA estimates that biodiesel and renewable diesel production and use will need to increase by over 60% compared to 2025 volumes, the last year of the Biden-Harris administration's "Set 1."

"This in particular will drive renewed demand for American soybean producers," the agency said.

The EPA estimates that the rule will generate over $10 billion for rural economies and create over 100,000 new jobs in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors.

To provide additional certainty for American corn growers and ethanol producers, the EPA will maintain the 15 billion gallon conventional biofuel level for 2026 and 2027.

The Trump administration expanding the use of American-made ethanol, biodiesel and renewable diesel in the marketplace will reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil by roughly 300,000 barrels of oil per day over 2026 and 2027.

Rollins said the new blending regime is expected to create a $3 billion to $4 billion dollar increase in net farm income by enhancing the dollar value of both corn and soybean oil.

In addition the EPA announced that starting in 2028, foreign fuels and feedstocks will receive half the RFS compliance value compared to American-made products, providing American biofuel producers with time to prepare for the change while ensuring that American farmers benefit from the RFS program and American energy independence.

Trump closed this portion of his remarks by doubling down on his call for Congress to remove restrictions on selling high-ethanol gasoline during the summer months.

But the president wasn't done.

Acknowledging that the farmers and ranchers that make up a large portion of his base in rural America continue to struggle with high production costs and low commodity prices — a situation

exacerbated by the war in Iran — the president announced the EPA is setting new guidelines for a program meant to lower diesel emissions — a move that could potentially save farmers billions of dollars.

The program, a mandate known as the Diesel Exhaust Fluid rules, "was a disaster," Trump said.

Later he blasted the environmentalists who pushed for such standards, saying their efforts handcuffed the agricultural community and saddled it with a lot of "environmental impact statement garbage."

The president also announced new loan guarantees from the Small Business Administration for small businesses in the agricultural industry, including grain, fruit and vegetable producers, as well as farmers who raise cattle, pigs and poultry, grocery wholesalers and those that provide refrigerated trucking and farm equipment.

In what seemed like an unexpected move, Trump also called on tractor and other farm equipment manufacturers to lower the cost of their products, implying the steps he's taken to deregulate large swaths of the economy have significantly improved their bottom line and that those benefits should be passed on to their customers.

Trump said the administration would continue "cutting out massive amounts of nonsense that are mandated to be put on your tractors, and all of your trucks that cost you a fortune."

"They're going to be able to, very shortly, produce a bigger, better tractor at substantially less money," he said.

Trump also called for Congress to quickly pass a new farm bill, something that hasn't happened since 2018.

"The farm bill is going to happen," he said with authority, adding that he "trusts" House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., to "find a deal that works for farmers, consumers and refiners."

Rural voters constitute roughly a fifth of the U.S. electorate, and they supported Trump by a two-to-one margin over Democrat Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election.

"You're very special people," Trump told the assembled farmers and ranchers. "You voted for me. I'll never forget that."

In a written statement American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, who got a shout out from the president during his remarks, said the organization appreciated Trump's outlining his plan to deliver regulatory relief and "much-needed certainty for farmers and ranchers working on behalf of all of America's families."

"Farmers need a lifeline to make it through this growing season, and we appreciate the president's support for including emergency assistance in the next funding bill," Duvall said. "His call for quick passage of a new, modernized farm bill also underscores the need for Congress to come together to pass the legislation, which has been delayed for years.

"We also appreciate the Environmental Protection Agency for finalizing record-high renewable volume obligations for 2026 and 2027, which will help drive increased demand for American grown crops," the federal president continued.

"Now is the time for Congress to take the next step and make **E15 blended gasoline** available year-round and we welcome the president's push for Congress to take action. Drivers deserve a year-

round choice of lower cost gasoline that will help grow the farm economy by boosting demand for corn by almost 50%,” he said.

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(*Photos by Dan McCue*)

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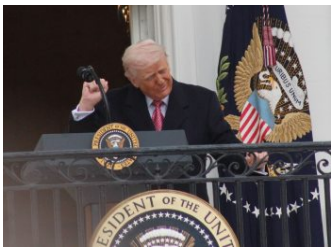

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